



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 17, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman Lovain, Scott Anderson, Christine Michaelis, Annika Moman, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, James Lewis, Nathan Macek and Maria Wasowski

Commissioners Excused: Stephen Klejst

Commissioners Unexcused: Mayor William Euille

Staff Present: Carrie Beach – P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Yon Lambert – T&ES, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. May 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Macek asked if there were any updates or changes to the May 11, 2015 minutes. There being no edits, Commissioner King made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the funding of various ongoing projects, the Eisenhower West Transportation Study, the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Work Group and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update. Commissioners King, Anderson and Jakubek stated concerns about the proposed bicycle facility along Van Dorn Street as part of the West End Transitway (WET). Staff member Steve Sindiong noted that as part of the WET Transitway project, the proposed design for Van Dorn Street includes an interim shared use path on the east side of the street that can be accommodated within the existing right-of-way, and that a wider shared use path will be accommodated as future redevelopment occurs. Staff will bring an update on the WET and proposed bicycle facility to the July Commission meeting.

Commissioner Anderson inquired about Norfolk Southern Railway approving the proposed Multimodal Bridge. Mr. Sindiong stated City staff met with Norfolk Southern staff on June 3, 2015. Norfolk Southern agreed to continue discussions with the City toward developing a workable solution. T&ES Staff member Ramond Robinson gave an update on the

Transportation Commission's request of DASH and the Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) to prioritize their projects in advance of the \$930,000 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds being disbursed. The ATC Board submitted a list of technology capital projects that were part of their 2016 Transit Development Program (TDP). The Transportation Commission agreed it would submit an official letter to ATC informing them that a decision on TIP priorities would be made once the Commission meets with the Council in the fall, discussing all transportation projects.

3. Commission Updates

Commissioner Macek reported that the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) Workgroup is concentrating on ways to encourage long term employee parking in the garages, encourage turnover at commercial metered spaces, and encourage a residential parking policy to allow residents to be able to park a reasonable distance from their home. The group is currently working through a number of recommendations. There has been a consensus on enforcement, increased meter hours west of Alfred Street recommendations to increase metered parking from two hours to three hours. The group has two more meetings before forwarding its recommendation to the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Jakubek provided an update on the West End Transitway (WET) project, noting that at the last WET Policy Advisory Group meeting, staff presented the near term and long term plans for Van Dorn Street, and stated his concern with the current design.

Commissioner Michaelis reported the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee is continuing to discuss pedestrian and bicycle strategies, pedestrian case study issues and needs, and will have its next meeting on August 12, 2015. Ms. Michaelis also noted the concerns of Seminary Valley residents of the increasing volumes and accidents on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane, and recommended that these issues be brought to a future Commission meeting.

Councilman Lovain reported the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) staff is currently developing a regional list of unfunded transportation projects which could not be included in the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), in order to determine how they can be used in regional planning and analysis and potentially prioritized.

4. Alexandria Transit Development Plan

Ramond Robinson introduced Mr. Chris Bell of AECOM who is the consultant for the development of the Alexandria Transit Development Plan (TDP). Mr. Bell gave an overview of the TDP process and requirements. The TDP is funded and managed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), which requires any transit agency providing transit service in Virginia to develop a six-year Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP will serve as a policy document intended to guide and inform capital and operating funding decisions for all transit services that operate in the City of Alexandria. The TDP will help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public transportation service. The T&ES Transit Services division, DASH, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) staff are members of the Project Management Team responsible for providing data and feedback and reviewing project deliverables. The draft TDP should be completed by July 2015. Staff will provide a draft copy and summary of the TDP to the Commission prior to the July Commission meeting. Staff will seek an endorsement by the Transportation Commission, and Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) Board of Directors, prior to approval by the City Council in the fall.

5. Transportation Long Range Plan

T&ES staff member Steve Sindiong reminded the Commission that the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) is an unconstrained plan that includes projects and/or studies that do not have any funding. In early June the Commissioners were given an opportunity to individually score / rank the projects. Mr. Sindiong provided an overview of the result of the scoring exercise. After presenting the results, the Commission discussed the project rankings. The Commission recommended that because the three Mt. Vernon Avenue related projects are important safety projects, they should be moved up, to follow the Pedestrian/bicycle connection from Potomac Yard to Four Mile Run Trail project. In addition, the Commission asked staff to redefine the West End Transit Shop project, given that the Old Town Transit shop is now closed. Finally, the Commission discussed the feasibility of the Seminary Road at Janneys/Quaker Lane intersection improvement, and asked staff for additional information on the need for the project. Staff will bring back the revised project list at the July Commission meeting, hold a Public Hearing and ask for the Commission to approve the 2015 LRP.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Jakubek spoke of his appreciation for the City providing striping, traffic lights and pedestrian signals at an intersection near his home.

Mr. Sindiong stated the regularly scheduled July Commission meeting must be rescheduled due to Commissioner's vacation schedules. It was decided to send a meeting poll to all Commissioners with a range of dates to find an agreeable date.

Commissioner King made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Moman. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.